

12 November 73

Dear Hal,

Many thanks for your long letter of 16 October. Am not really surprised to learn that you are doing book(s) on the Watergate mess, and all luck to you. You'll need it, I dare say—but of course one does what one must do, or he is no man at all...

I was interested, too, in your remarks re: the Garrison trial. I had in fact (as you appear to have somehow suspected) read the TIME account you refer to and was taken aback at such blatant editorializing in a news story. Glad to have your own comments. Garrison seems to be the type of person who either makes of others fast friends or bitter enemies. I've never heard of anyone being indifferent to him.

On Ford: LBJ is quoted somewhere as having said he (Ford) had "played football too long without a helmet." For some reason this amused the hell out of me. That is, the remark amuses me; Mr. Ford does not. But it is not surprising that Nixon chose him. Congress meanwhile wheezes along. The judiciary (I mean to say the Supreme Court) seems the soundest branch of the govt. at present. The legislative branch is certainly the most saddening, even though it lacks the spectacular arrogance of the executive.

Too, a word about Hunt. Yesterday I read a ridiculous book ~~xx~~ called On Hazardous Duty, by "David St. John." Well, I don't know how Hunt's other books are, but this one is a waste of trees. Neither author or spy-hero 'Peter Ward' ~~xxx~~ have much presence at all. When I saw Hunt testifying on TV the thing that was most apparent to me was his seemingly depressed state. Had I been in charge of his care I would have placed him on strict suicide precautions. His testimony was a cut or two above the prose in this one book I've read, but both seem to confirm that this man does feel his country has abused him, that his own view of Commies vs. Good-Guys is intellectually sound and morally pure, that he himself is a vague sort of tragic hero, and that if he were dead he would be remembered (at least among his CIA colleagues) appropriately. But I would guess that now, with the lesser sentence, the fellow will take heart and perhaps write up a bunch more Peter Ward penny-dreadfuls, and waste a bunch more trees. Anyway, he is an intellectually shallow writer-thinker. I wonder how many of these kinds of people our intelligence agencies hire?

I must stop, my friend. I'm too tired to collect myself well. I have gone from working nights at the hospital to working days, and I seem not to have adjusted to the different hours yet. Having worked nights for ten years... But the change has put me back in touch with the Institute's basic programs—something I sorely needed. The thing is, I'm too damn tired ~~at~~ at night to do any of my own work!

Best,
Neil